

# *River Dell Middle School*

230 Woodland Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

Robert Urbanovich  
*Principal*

201-599-7200  
Fax: 201-599-2202

August 18, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Greetings! I hope everyone has had a relaxing and enjoyable summer! With just over two weeks remaining until the first day of school, please take the time to read through some important information so that your student(s) are prepared to hit the ground running on Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>! In accordance with Governor Murphy's Executive Order, students and staff are required to wear masks in the building. To stay up to date with the district protocols as we navigate through these challenging times, check the *River Dell Reopening Plan* heading on any of the district websites located under *Recent News*. The district website can be located at <https://riverdell.org/>.

The doors will open each day at 7:40, however, they will open at 7:35 on the first day to allow students additional time to find their lockers and their homeroom/period 1 classroom. There are three points of access before 7:50. They are the Main Entrance near the flagpole, the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Entrance in the back parking lot, and the Woodland Ave. Entrance for students who ride the bus each day. After 7:50, all students must enter through the Main Entrance. **Any student who qualifies for busing will receive information this week from the district office.**

The first day of school will be an *A Day* and is one session as is the second day (which is a *B Day*). Students should dress comfortably in clothes and sneakers that would allow them to participate in physical education. The locker rooms are not used on one session days. More information regarding the use of locker rooms will be given by physical education teachers on the first day. One session days follow the schedule below regardless of a student's grade (**there is no lunch period on a one session day**):

<b>Period</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Length</b>
1	7:50	8:19	29
2	8:23	8:52	29
3	8:56	9:25	29
4	9:29	9:57	28
5/6,6/7	10:01	10:29	28
8	10:33	11:01	28
9	11:05	11:33	28
10	11:37	12:05	28

There is no class September 6<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day) and September 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> (Rosh Hashana). Students will return to school on September 9<sup>th</sup> (a *C Day*) for a full day of class. September 10<sup>th</sup> (a *D Day*) will also be a full day. The full day schedules are located on the top of the next page.

**Grade 7**

Period	Start	End	Length
Homeroom	7:50	7:58	8
1	7:58	8:41	43
2	8:45	9:28	43
3	9:32	10:15	43
4	10:19	11:02	43
5 – Lunch	11:06	11:32	26
6/7	11:36	12:19	43
8	12:23	1:06	43
9	1:10	1:53	43
10	1:57	2:40	43

**Grade 8**

Period	Start	End	Length
Homeroom	7:50	7:58	8
1	7:58	8:41	43
2	8:45	9:28	43
3	9:32	10:15	43
4	10:19	11:02	43
5/6	11:06	11:49	43
7 – Lunch	11:53	12:19	26
8	12:23	1:06	43
9	1:10	1:53	43
10	1:57	2:40	43

The days will continue to cycle, *A* through *D* as the school year continues. Each cycle day is identified in the Genesis Parent Portal above the student schedule.

Students can anticipate meeting teachers on the first day and being provided with a supply list from each teacher/class. Teachers will be accommodating and understanding, allowing time for each student to gather any necessary supplies for class so please do not stress over this process prior to September. Class lessons/activities over the first two weeks will be designed in a way that will not call for use of a laptop. Laptop distribution will take place during Social Studies class on September 13<sup>th</sup> for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and September 14<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Any student who does not have the necessary requirements fulfilled on Community Pass will not receive a laptop computer until all forms/fees have been taken care of. Any parent/guardian experiencing issues with Community Pass should contact [CommunityPassHelp@riverdell.org](mailto:CommunityPassHelp@riverdell.org) and provide your name, the student's name, and a primary email address.

Leading up to the first day, all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to attend an Orientation/Barbecue on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. The schedule for the day is as follows:

9:45 – 10:00	Students arrive near the flagpole and report to the auditorium just inside the main entrance
10:00 – 10:30	Counselors will review information to prepare students for their start to the school year
10:30 – 11:15	Presentation from an outside speaker
11:15 – 12:00	Students will be given a chance to freely walk the building (it is encouraged that they bring a copy of their schedule as well as identify their locker and combination)
12:00 – 1:00	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Barbecue

We are currently working on assigning times for returning 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to visit RDMS in case they would like to “walk their schedule” and test their locker. In addition, we are working on a PTO sponsored Pizza Social for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students which will take place on Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> immediately after school. This will give the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students an opportunity to enjoy some free lunch and catch up with peers from 12:00 – 1:30 on the RDMS field. More information will follow regarding both opportunities.

At this point, all families should have received an email with credentials to sign into the Genesis Parent Portal. The link can be found on the District or School website. If, for some reason, any family has not received login information, please contact RDMS as soon as possible. Students starting grade 7 will receive a district email and instructions on how to use Office 365 on the day that laptop computers are distributed.

I look forward to meeting everyone in a few weeks as the 2021-2022 school year kicks off! Below are some important dates to consider. The RDMS website at <https://rdms.riverdell.org/> will be updated regularly. You will also find a current version of the student handbook should you have any procedural questions. Details on all listed events to follow:

September 1 – First day for teachers  
September 2 – First day for students  
September 3 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pizza Social – 12:00  
September 6-8 – No Classes  
September 13-14 – Laptop Distribution  
September 16 – No Class

September 17 – Individual picture day  
September 21 – Club Fair (during lunch)  
September 22 – RDMS Virtual Back to School Night  
September 24 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day  
September 25 – Mental Health Fair at RDHS – 3:00

Best Regards,



Robert Urbanovich  
Principal, River Dell Middle School